

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000364

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF, AF/E, AF/RSA  
PARIS FOR NEARY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/11/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI'S FM ON CAMP LEMONIER LEASE RENEWAL

REF: A. DJIBOUTI 298 B. DJIBOUTI 123

Classified By: Ambassador Marguerita Ragsdale.  
Reasons 1.4 (b), (d), and (e).

1. (C) In a meeting with Djibouti's Foreign Minister Ali Abdi Farah on March 10, Farah contradicted information we reported (reftel A) that placed authority for negotiations on the Camp Lemonier base lease renewal within the Ministry of Presidential Affairs. Farah also denied that Ambassador Olhaye would be his country's primary interlocutor.

2. (C) According to Farah, negotiations would be "led" by his Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through what he called in French a "commission" (committee or commission) of four persons established for military coordination. The names of those members are M. Mohamed Ali Hassan, Director of Bilateral Relations in the MFA, Colonel Abdo Abdi Dembil, Defense Advisor to President Guelleh, Colonel Osman Soubagleh of the Djibouti Armed Forces, and Abdourahman Boreh, Economic Adviser to the President.

3. (C) Actually, the entity about which Farah spoke has been in existence since October of 2003. This embassy received, in that time frame, a diplomatic note announcing the commission's establishment. USLO Chief has met weekly with the group to coordinate on security assistance issues. Boreh was not part of the original list and was only added the first part of January of 2004. He continues to be the most active interlocutor on military issues. (See Reftel B)

4. (C) Comment: This makes three possibilities, and counting, for Djiboutian dialogue with the U.S. on base lease renewal. Despite the denials of Farah, though, we are hard-pressed to see talks without a role in some manner for Ambassador Olhaye. He is present in Washington and is expected to continue his engagement. If the confusion is indicative of anything, it is that Djibouti's own internal tensions over who will take charge of renewal talks will add another hurdle to those we must overcome as we enter what probably will be tough lease negotiations. End comment.

RAGSDALE